

THE STORY OF A HEN.

A Sacrifice Demanded by the Exigencies of the Service.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: The hotly-contested battle of Antietam had been fought, and victory perched upon our banners; but at what a fearful cost. Our corps (the Second) had lost in killed, wounded and missing more than 5,000 men. The rebel forces had withdrawn beyond the Potomac, and our army had advanced to Hagerstown. On the morning of September 19th thousands of wounded and dying men, and details were made from different commands to assist in taking care of them.

Among others thus detailed were Comrade Nate T— and myself. Our duties for some days were quite arduous, but we found time to do a little outside visiting. When our army

ables of all kinds were plenty and good, which was a boon to us who had fed upon the husks of the campaign just finished before us. The things that we now had were getting right scarce.

While on a tramp one day Nate and myself visited a plantation on a tour of inspection. The place was a fine one, with a big white house, and was evidently well off. To our surprise we found him at home. He was very polite to us, and showed us about the place and the things that he thought would interest our guide, as it might prove *any* food proceedings. Coming to the barn he said:

"When you folks came here a week ago I had over 250 hens; now there is the last one, excepting to an old sitting hen in the meal-chest."

As we turned to go away we had hard work to restrain our tears, thinking of the sad loss of the flock. He then showed us about the place as we moved away the man closed the chest and locked it. Then for the first time we began to realize that first-class hens were getting mighty scarce. We could have tears to shed plenty to shed them now.

I tried to blot out this part of my story, but it would be incomplete without it, and the phantom skeletons of slain hens would rise before me. I have seen and heard of the confession of the crime that so fearfully racks my system, especially when the soft warblings of an innocent and confiding hen

That night Nate came into our camp with the corpse of a hen in his hand. On his face there was a calm expression, and around his public mouth a sweet smile played. In apophry-like tones that pulverized, so to speak, my entire system, he said: "I got her!" Nate was a fellow of few words, but of quick action. He was a born leader. I am inclined to think that a few thousand men like Nate would have crushed the rebellion in a short time. Of course I don't know, but I believe that when that hen looked up to Nate on that afternoon's relief, she was ready to capitulate on easy terms.

The following morning Nate went after his milk. If memory serves me right, and I think she does, we didn't have any regular milkman. I have been told by other parties that Nate had a cow tied up to a fence, and while he was drawing the lacteal fluid his chum was



doing guard duty in front of the cow. Ah! that is what has made this glorious country what it is to-day—our public duty at the front! So while Nate was sucking the milk away the

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2 LARGE PRIZES OF	5,000	20,000
20 PRIZES OF	1,000	20,000
50 "	500	25,000
100 "	300	30,000
200 "	200	30,000
500 "	100	30,000

100	"	200	40
1,000	"	100	50
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